

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2286

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC CO

SUBJECT: W/W FRED P. ROONEY

FOR CONGRESSMAN FRED B. ROONEY, HOUSE OF REPS FROM AMBASSADOR

1. REF YOUR TELEGRAM. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ON FEB 21 YOUR NEPHEW FRED P. ROONEY CAME IN PERSON TO EMBASSY TO REPORT PROBLEM WITH MRS. GLADYS J. UHL, AMERICAN OWNER AND DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL ESTADOS UNIDOS WHERE FRED HAD BEEN TEACHING. HIS STORY WAS ALONG LINES OF ARTICLE PRINTED IN EL PERIODICO OF APRIL 4. EMBASSY OFFICERS OFFERED TO MEDIATE IN ORDER THAT DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO AMERICAN BE SETTLED AMICABLY. FRED INDICATED FIRM INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO TEACH IN THAT SCHOOL DESPITE FACT MRS. UHL HAD FIRED HIM. FRED SAID MOST MEMBERS FACULTY AND MANY STUDENTS IN HIS CLASS WERE SOLIDLY BEHIND HIM AND HE FELT MORALLY OBLIGATED NOT TO WALK OUT ON THEM.

2. ON THAT SAME DAY MRS. UHL WITH HER AMERICAN HUSBAND VISITED EMBASSY TO REPORT INCIDENT WITH FRED. THEY ACCUSED FRED OF INCITING STUDENTS AND TEACHERS TO STRIKE, THAT FRED HAD BEEN DISMISSED, AND THAT MRS. UHL HAD WITHDRAWN SPONSORSHIP OF FRED BEFORE COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES WHERE HE WAS PRESENTLY APPLYING FOR RESIDENT VISA IN ORDER TO TEACH AT HER SCHOOL. ON THE QUESTION OF PHYSICAL AGGRESSION THEIR STORIES WERE DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED. WHILE FRED TOLD US MRS. UHL HAD FORCIBLY TAKEN HIM BY HAIR AND EJECTED HIM FROM CLASSROOM, MRS. UHL SAID SHE TRIED TO BLOCK FRED FROM ENTERING CLASSROOM AFTER HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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BEING DISMISSED BUT THAT FRED KNOCKED HER ASIDE BY RAMMING

ALBOWS INTO HER. ONCE MORE EMBASSY OFFICERS OFFERED
ASSIST MEDIATION EFFORTS.

3. DESPITE OUR REQUEST THAT MATTER BE SETTLED AMICABLY
MRS. UHL INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER A FEW DAYS LATER SHE
FILED CHARGES FOR BATTERY. MRS UHL ALLEGED FRED FILED
CHARGES FIRST AND THAT SHE ONLY FOLLOWED SUIT TO BETTER
DEFEND HERSELF. FRED REPORTS HE INTENDED TO BRING SAME
CHARGES AGAINST HER BUT NEVER DID AND THAT HE HASN'T BEEN
SERVED CONCERNING ALLEGED CHARGES BY MRS UHL. FRED HAS
SUED MRS UHL IN LABOR COURT FOR BACK WAGES.

4. COLEGIO ESTADOS UNIDOS RECEIVES NO RPT NO FUNDS AND/OR
SUPPORT FROM USG AND IS COMPLETELY PRIVATELY-SPONSORED. IT
HAS HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH OTHER TEACHERS ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS. PLEASE BE ASSURED EMBASSY WILL RENDER FRED
ASSISTANCE AS APPROPRIATE.
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA.
VAKY

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